

THE VICTIM SERVICES PERSPECTIVE

Serving Crime Victims of Tennessee since 1993



The Johnson Family hangs an ornament in honor of their Mother, Ms. Debra K. Johnson

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR!

Welcome to 2020! But, before we move past 2019, we want to share some highlights from the 17th Annual Tennessee Season to Remember. Federal, state, and local public safety officials, along with First Lady Maria Lee, hosted the event. The ceremony was held on December 5th in Nashville to honor the memory of homicide victims. Keynote speaker, Mychal Austin, son of slain TDOC Correctional Administrator Debra K. Johnson, gave a moving message of hope and remembrance. Inspirational music was performed by award-winning vocalist San Franklin. The family of Ms. Johnson is pictured above; additional photos of this memorial event are also pictured on the next page.

From there, we quickly jumped into 2020, filled with the promise of a fresh start. We hope that you also feel the excitement of new beginnings in your life as we enter this new decade.

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TENNESSEE BOARD OF PAROLE
VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

Inside this issue

TSTR 2019 in Photos P2

Stalking Fact Sheet P3

6 Steps to Support a Survivor P4

Show Me The Numbers P6

2020 NCVRW Dates Announced P7

Upcoming Events/Announcements P8



TENNESSEE SEASON TO REMEMBER 2019 IN PICTURES



2019 TSTR Keynote Speaker Mychal Austin

Mychal Austin, son of TDOC Correctional Administrator Debra K. Johnson, spoke from his heart in his message to those in attendance. Like his own family, many who attended have lost loved ones to homicide. The pain for some is very fresh, such as for the Johnson family. Others have been finding ways to deal with their pain for decades. The *17th Annual Tennessee Season to Remember* ceremony is one way they find to keep the memory of their loved ones alive.



Tennessee's First Lady Maria Lee

First Lady Maria Lee placed one of the first ornaments on a wreath during the ceremony, on behalf of Governor Lee and herself. There were 135 names of loved ones announced as their families placed ornaments on the wreaths in their memory. The wreaths were taken to the Tennessee State Capitol the following day, where they were on display on the second floor, during the remainder of the holiday season.

Some of the families' ornaments that attended the annual 2019 event were decorated with a photo of their lost loved one and noted with the date of loss



Stalking Fact Sheet

STALKING FACT SHEET



WHAT IS STALKING?

While legal definitions of stalking vary from one jurisdiction to another, a good working definition of stalking is: **a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.**

STALKING VICTIMIZATION

- An estimated 6-7.5 million people are stalked in a one year period in the United States.
 - Nearly 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men have experienced stalking victimization at some point in their lifetime.
 - Using a less conservative definition of stalking, which considers any amount of fear (i.e., a little fearful, somewhat fearful, or very fearful), 1 in 4 women and 1 in 13 men reported being a victim of stalking in their lifetime.
 - About half of all victims of stalking indicated that they were stalked before the age of 25.
 - **Stalkers use many tactics including:**
Approaching the victim or showing up in places when the victim didn't want them to be there; making unwanted telephone calls; leaving the victim unwanted messages (text or voice); watching or following the victim from a distance, or spying on the victim with a listening device, camera, or GPS.
- * Source for the above stats: Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., Chen, J. (2018). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 Data Brief*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. Many victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner, or by an acquaintance.
 - People aged 18-24 have the highest rate of stalking victimization.

** Source for the above stats: Catalano, S., Smith, E., Snyder, H. & Rand, M. (2009). *Bureau of Justice Statistics selected findings: Female victims of violence*. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fvv.pdf>.

- Almost half of stalking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week.
- 11% of stalking victims have been stalked for 5 years or more.
- 1 in 4 victims report being stalked through the use of some form of technology (such as e-mail or instant messaging).
- 10% of victims report being monitored with global positioning systems (GPS), and 8% report being monitored through video or digital cameras, or listening devices.

*** Source: Katrina Baum et al., "Stalking Victimization in the United States," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009).

IMPACT OF STALKING ON VICTIMS

- 46% of stalking victims fear not knowing what will happen next.
- 29% of stalking victims fear the stalking will never stop.
- 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization and more than half lose 5 days of work or more.
- 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization.

**** Source: Katrina Baum et al., "Stalking Victimization in the United States," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009).

- Stalking victims suffer much higher rates of depression, anxiety, insomnia, and social dysfunction than people in the general population.

***** Source: Eric Blauuw et al., "The Toll of Stalking," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 17, no. 1 (2002):50-63.

STALKING OFFENDERS

- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week, many daily, using more than one method.
- 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach.
- Weapons are used to harm or threaten victims in 1 out of 5 cases.
- Almost 1/3 of stalkers have stalked before.
- Intimate partner stalkers frequently approach their targets, and their behaviors escalate quickly.

***** Source: Kris Mohandie et al., "The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers," *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 51, no. 1 (2006).

STALKING LAWS

- Stalking is a crime under the laws of 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories, and the Federal government.
- Less than 1/3 of states classify stalking as a felony upon first offense.
- More than 1/2 of states classify stalking as a felony upon second or subsequent offense or when the crime involves aggravating factors.
- Aggravating factors may include: possession of a deadly weapon, violation of a court order or condition of probation/parole, victim under 16 years, or same victim as prior occasions.



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JOYFUL HEART FOUNDATION

Reprinted with permission from Joyful Heart Foundation (<http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org>)

6 Steps to Support a Survivor

It takes courage for a survivor of sexual assault or domestic violence to share their story with anyone. **Never underestimate your power to affect the course of a survivor's healing journey.** Here are some tools—words, actions, and resources—that can help you support someone who shares personal experiences with you.

You don't have to be an expert—you just have to be yourself. If someone shares their experience with you, you're probably a person they look to for support, compassion, and guidance. Although you can't take away what happened to someone, you can be a source of comfort.

1. Listen

Sometimes you don't even need words (or at least not a lot of words), to be there for someone. Many people share that being able to tell their story to someone else lessens the weight of isolation, secrecy, and self-blame. Listening is in and of itself an act of love.

2. Validate

Think about a time when you felt vulnerable or faced a crisis, and think of what helped you the most. Chances are it was not a specific conversation you had, but it was the knowledge and comfort that the person or people you told were there for you, believed in you, were on your side, and were committed to supporting you through a hard time. **There are some helpful phrases you can use to show you care.**

- "I'm so sorry this happened to you."
- "I believe you."
- "This is not your fault."
- "You're not alone. I'm here for you and I'm glad you told me."

Often times, a survivor may feel like what happened to them is their fault. We are bombarded with victim-blaming myths and attitudes in our society, and they can sink in... deeply. But no action excuses a person hurting someone else. Violence and abuse is never the victim's fault. That responsibility and shame lies with the perpetrator. It can be helpful to communicate that gently and repeatedly.

(continued on page 5)

- “Nothing you did or could’ve done differently makes this your fault.”
- “The responsibility is on the person who hurt you.”
- “No one ever has the right to hurt you.”
- “I promise, you didn’t ask for this.”
- “I know that it can feel like you did something wrong, but you didn’t.”
- “It doesn’t matter if you did or didn’t _____. No one asks to be hurt in this way.”

3. Ask what more you can do to help

Violence and abuse is about power and control. It is vital for survivors to regain their sense of personal power. Instead of pushing someone into taking actions for which they are not ready, ask how you can support them.

4. Know where to point someone to for more help

You can best help a survivor by offering options and leaving space for them to decide where to go from there. Here are some national resources—services that can point someone to local resources.

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network Sexual Assault Hotline

1.800.656.4673 | www.rainn.org [1]

National Child Abuse Hotline

1.800.422.4453 | www.childhelp.org [2]

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1.800.799.7233 | www.ndvh.org [3]

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline

1.866.331.9474 | www.loveisrespect.org [4]

5. Keep an open heart

Remind a survivor you are available should they like to talk about their experiences further. The healing journey can be a long one. It can be full of many challenging—but sometimes joyful and liberating—conversations. It can make a big difference for a survivor to know you are there to support them along the way.

6. Finally, care for yourself

There is a limit to what we are able to take in and process. The stories of someone else’s hardships related to a traumatic event can impact or become a part of us. This experience of second-hand trauma—often called vicarious trauma—is a human response to coming face-to-face with the reality of trauma and the difficulties of the human experience.

It’s important to care for yourself as you support another person. You cannot be your best self in your supportive role if you find yourself too tired to listen with care and compassion or you are overfilled with your own emotions in response to another’s trauma. These feelings are valid. Take some time after a conversation to enjoy the outdoors or do a healthy activity that makes you feel good as a way of re-centering yourself.

Remember, you can be your best self for someone else when you give yourself the space to honor your own needs.



SHOW ME THE NUMBERS



TENNESSEE BOARD OF PAROLE VICTIM SERVICES QUARTERLY STATISTICS



Telephone Calls at Central Office	October	November	December	FY YTD
Phone Calls Received/Returned	165	162	123	925
*Interested Parties Registered for Notifications	18	18	8	82
Hearing Information	45	43	31	323
Referrals	3	4	1	17
Release/Parole Inquiry	33	22	18	135
Other	66	75	65	368

Statewide Hearings Collaboration	October	November	December	FY YTD
Virtual Video Hearing Rooms Scheduled (Includes Grants/Revos/T/S, etc. hearings)	39	27	26	214
Scheduled Video Hearings for Opposition	14	12	7	88
Opposition Attending Video Hearings (BOP Central Office/TDOC Offices)	64	68	30	415
TOTAL Opposition Attending Hearings	67	69	30	439

Central Office Correspondences	October	November	December	FY YTD
All Correspondence Items Processed	321	246	211	2,065
*Interested Parties Registered via Correspondence	37	36	11	184
Letters of Opposition	231	177	139	1,496
Victim Impact Statements	19	7	6	77
Petition Letters/Signed Petitions	0	0	28	93
Others (H/D/R Notifications, Memos, Restitution Requests, etc.)	71	62	38	399

*The total number of IP registered via Correspondence is included in the Letters of Opposition, Victim Impact Statements, and/or Others total count.

GRAND TOTALS	October	November	December	FY YTD
Monthly Total (Telephone/Correspondence)	486	408	334	2,990
*Total Registered (Hearings/Decisions/Releases)	55	54	19	266

BOARD OF PAROLE'S VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION
SERVING CRIME VICTIMS OF TENNESSEE SINCE 1993

National Crime Victims' Rights Week
April 19–25, 2020



Seek Justice
Ensure Victims' Rights
Inspire Hope

UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have you lost someone you love? Would you like to help **Tennessee Voices for Victims** make this specialty license plate available in Tennessee to remember **loved ones** who are no longer with us? Whether the loved one is gone from murder, or illness, or accident, or suicide, or addiction, we loved them and want them to be remembered. **Or** can you stand in solidarity for those who are suffering with senseless grief? Remember the people suffering because of loss. In order to make this a reality, 1,000 Tennesseans must commit to purchasing this plate, and the deadline is few short months away. To obtain this plate, and to help make this license plate available for Tennesseans, learn more at www.tnvoicesforvictims.org **Without your help**, this "Remembrance" specialty plate will not be available in Tennessee. There is currently only one other state that has a remembrance specialty license plate. Help us make it two!!



UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Nashville & Middle Tennessee


wine
women&shoes®
— BENEFITING —
YWCA NASHVILLE & MIDDLE TENNESSEE
The largest provider of domestic violence services in Tennessee
Presented by  REGIONS



Wine Women & Shoes
Saturday, February 22, 2020 | 11am-3pm

Music City Center | Karl Dean Ballroom

CO-CHAIRS LUCIA FOLK, CAMERON SIMMONS, & LAQUITA STRIBLING

The most fashionable and fabulous event in Nashville returns to town on Saturday, February 22. Our 8th Annual Wine Women & Shoes has everything you and your girlfriends could want from a fun weekend outing: wine tastings from some of California's top-rated vineyards, exclusive shopping with local and national vendors, luxurious auction items, plus a special luncheon program packed with entertainment. Best of all, every dollar raised goes to support the YWCA's Weaver Domestic Violence Center – the largest emergency shelter in the state of Tennessee, providing more than 17,000 nights of safety for 500+ women and children each year.

For the VIP experience, check out the Girlfriends Package, which includes preferred luncheon seating for you and your nine guests, a dedicated Sole Man to keep your glasses filled, and some added surprise perks!

You bring your girlfriends, we'll bring the wine – together we'll change women's lives! See you at Music City Center on Feb. 22!

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The mission of the Tennessee Board of Parole is to minimize public risk and promote lawful behavior through the prudent, orderly release of adult offenders.

TENNESSEE BOARD OF PAROLE VICTIM SERVICES' GOAL:

To be recognized as a leader in providing victim services of educating and supporting victims on the parole process, fulfilling the laws that govern/ protect their rights and addressing any immediate public safety concerns.

VICTIMS' FOCUSED



IF YOU'RE A VICTIM OF CRIME, PLEASE CONTACT FOR HELP:

- Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767
- National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE
- Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678
- Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484
- National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund - 615.741.2734



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